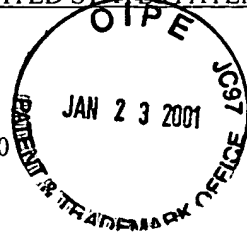


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

03CO
#3

Applicant: SCHERER
 Serial No.: 09/691,864
 Filed: October 19, 2000
 Notice of Allow. Date:
 Due Date: January 19, 2001
 Title: BLOCK SPLITTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD

Examiner: UNKNOWN
 Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN
 Docket: 3616.177US11
 Batch No.:



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 19, 2001.

By: James A. Larson
 James A. Larson

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

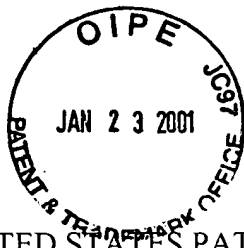
- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 16 Reference(s), International Search Report
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
 P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
 612.332.5300

By: James A. Larson
 Name: James A. Larson
 Reg. No.: 40,443
 JAL/smw





#3

S/N 09/691,864

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Applicant: | SCHERER | Examiner: | UNKNOWN |
| Serial No.: | 09/691,864 | Group Art Unit: | UNKNOWN |
| Filed: | October 19, 2000 | Docket No.: | 3616.177-US-II |
| Title: | BLOCK SPLITTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD | | |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 19, 2001.

By: 

James A. Larson

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were cited in an International Search Report mailed September 27, 2000. The remaining references were cited in co-pending application 09/330,879.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided along with a copy of the International Search Report.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

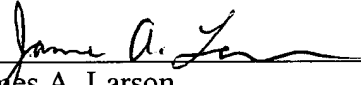
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612/332-5300

Date: January 19, 2001



James A. Larson
Reg. No.: 40,443
JAL/smw